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BROOKLYN DOES 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Tchaikovsky's ballet gets a fresh take from the Brooklyn ballet. 14

Brooklyn Rugby Club's upcoming calendar. 6

Giants host Cowboys in Manning's return. 18

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SANTARCHY

Saturday marks the city's annual SantaCon bar crawl, and we have your guide to the festivities. 4-5

GETTY IMAGES

WELCOME TO METRO.US

MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR

Hordes of sloppy santas will swarm Manhattan on Saturday. Whether you're naughty or nice, we have everything you need to know for a holly, jolly bar crawl. Turn to **pages 4 and 5** for our guide, and visit metro.us for more holiday season stories.



SENATOR FRANKEN SAYS HE WILL RESIGN

I Democratic U.S. Senator Al Franken announced his resignation from office on Thursday, bowing to pressure from party colleagues after a series of sexual misconduct allegations against him. Franken, 66, a former comedian who had been seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party, said on the Senate floor he would be leaving in a few weeks. "I know in my heart that nothing I've done

as a senator - nothing - has brought dishonor on this institution," Franken said. "Nevertheless, today I am announcing that in the coming weeks, I will be resigning as a member of the United States Senate." Franken is one of several prominent American men in politics, media and entertainment to be accused in recent months of sexual harassment and misconduct.

HAMAS CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN UPRISING

2 The Islamist group Hamas urged Palestinians to abandon peace efforts and launch a new uprising against Israel in response to President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as its capital. Palestinian factions called for a "Day of Rage" on Friday, and a wave of protest in the West Bank and Gaza brought clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops. At least 31 people were wounded by Israeli gunfire

and rubber bullets, medics said. The Israeli military said an aircraft and a tank had targeted two posts belonging to militants in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip after three rockets were launched at Israel. A jihadist Salafi group in Gaza called the Al-Tawhid Brigades - which did not heed the call from the enclave's dominant force, Hamas, to desist from firing rockets - claimed responsibility for the launches.

PROTEST IN GAZA

3 Protesters set fire as they gather to protest against the U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital in Gaza City, Gaza, on Thursday.



5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

US GYMNASTICS DOCTOR SENTENCED TO 60 YEARS

4 A federal judge sentenced Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics team doctor accused of sexually assaulting gymnasts, to 60 years in prison on federal child pornography charges that grew out of a sex abuse investigation. U.S. District Judge Janet Neff in Grand Rapids, Michigan, handed down the sentences sought by prosecutors, who said there was a link between Nassar's child-pornography activities

and his "prolific molestation of children." "He's devastated," Nassar's attorney, Matt Newburg, told reporters outside the courtroom according to video posted online by the Lansing State Journal. Newburg added he believed Nassar was remorseful. "You have to wonder whether he felt he was omnipotent, whether he felt he was getting away with something so cleverly," Neff said, according to the State Journal.

INSTAGRAM TESTING DIRECT MESSAGING APP

5 Facebook Inc's Instagram said on Thursday it was testing a standalone messaging app called Direct, making it the company's third chat tool alongside its hugely popular WhatsApp and Messenger. The move is similar to what Facebook did with its private messaging feature in 2014. "With hundreds of millions of people using Instagram Direct, today we're announcing a test

of a standalone Direct app. It's fast, visual and super fun. Only in six countries to start but can't wait for you all to try it." Instagram's vice president of product, Kevin Weil, said in a tweet. The Instagram Direct app will be available starting Thursday on Android and iOS in Chile, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Turkey and Uruguay, according to technology news website the Verge.

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NYC's SantaCon takes place this Saturday. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

SantaCon 2017: Everything you need to know about the red-suited drinkathon

Read up, because if you make the group's naughty list, they'll just send you home.



LINNEA ZIELINSKI
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letters@metro.us

Whether you would put the unofficial New York

City holiday decidedly in the naughty or nice category, SantaCon 2017 is almost upon us and city residents should get prepared.

not you agree with the "joy" part of the statement, we think everyone can agree on the "absurdist" aspect.

What time does it start?

SantaCon 2017 kicks off on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m., but further details are yet to be announced. That's right: Santa's keeping these secrets close for now. The official site for the event tells eager participants that they can sign up for alerts about SantaCon 2017 by texting "Follow Santa" to 40404. You can also get updates on the Facebook page.

The SantaCon 2017 route

Sorry, would-be Santas — this one's another secret, for now. The official SantaCon 2017 route will be rolling out in the days leading up to the event. The fastest way to hear about them is to get updates directly from the group holding it. Again, if you want these updates, or want one person in your group to stay updated and relay the message, text "Follow Santa" to 40404.

You can get an idea of what the SantaCon 2017 route will probably be like by checking out last year's. The group shared a photo to their Instagram account of all the bars participating through the GeoSwap app last year.

The bars and venues participating were scheduled to be announced a couple days prior to SantaCon 2017 — but you'll have to wait until the night before to find out where exactly the whole day of Santa shenanigans is going to kick off.

Although some outlets are reporting that the event will be starting at 23rd Street and Broadway Pedestrian Plaza, The Flatiron Building, this has yet to be confirmed by the organization and everything on their website says the starting point

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We hope you already rented your Santa costume for SantaCon 2017, otherwise you might want to start planning on some other Christmas-themed costume.

will be announced the night of Friday, December 8.

Are there rules to SantaCon in NYC?

Other than your standard city-wide rules about alcohol consumption, the group organizing SantaCon 2017 does, in fact, have rules for their event. Just five, and they all read the same way: They don't want you to "f*uck with" kids, cops, New York City, bar staff, or Santa's Charity Mission.

Despite the rocky reputation the event has earned over the years, the website for SantaCon 2017 has a pretty lengthy guide to what is deemed acceptable. It includes just about everything most people assume it doesn't, from making sure you don't vomit in public places to bringing cash and tipping bar staff well after being respectful during your time in their establishment.

Even if you plan on being a nice rather than a naughty Santa, make sure to steer clear of the bars and venues in lower Manhattan posting signs against SantaCon 2017. In past years, bars have posted simple — and sometimes hostile signs — to keep revelers away.

SantaCon 2017 tickets

Don't be fooled by scams claiming to be for SantaCon 2017. The official group has warned that other places have claimed to be selling tickets to the event. SantaCon in NYC is for charity, and the only thing the group asks you to do in order to participate, other than follow their rules, is to give \$10 to charity through their website.

If making the donation somehow gets off the list you're checking twice, elves will be on-hand at the start of SantaCon 2017 to collect your donation. And you're bringing cash anyway to pay your nice bartenders, right? If you made your donation online, make sure to bring a confirmation of your donation or get in the giving spirit and offer up some money again for good measure.

Anything else I need for SantaCon 2017?

If you want to enjoy the Santa extravaganza to maximum potential, you might want to check out the group's guide to dirty carols. After all, you don't want to be the only one left out in the cold if someone strikes up a round of "Cannabis Is Coming To Town."



SantaCon events take place nationwide during the holiday season.

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Brooklyn Rugby Club embraces femininity, masculinity and puppies in upcoming calendars

The men's team goes to the dogs while the women bring out their best biker babe for the club's annual calendars.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
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nikki.mascali@metro.us

Come 2018, Brooklyn Rugby Club is going to the dogs and bikers. No, not on the field, it's for the 10-year-old organization's annual calendars.

After four years of showing its male players in humorous and sometimes tastefully and playfully nude poses, the men's team partnered with Badass Brooklyn Animal Rescue to showcase some of the adoptable pups that were saved from high-kill rural shelters down south for the men's team's fifth calendar outing.

"We've been around long enough that we're established, and it's time that we really try to start giving back to our community," said Mark O'Donnell, creative director for the men's calendar. "By helping a charity that does a lot of great work here in the city, while also having a bit of fun and, frankly, commercially, I thought



For the fifth annual men's calendar, BRC teamed up with dogs from Badass Brooklyn Animal Rescue. From left are team members Kevin Keebler, Guillaume Brue and Mark O'Donnell, who was creative director for the shoot. **KYM FAJARDO**

a calendar of men with puppies would go down really well."

About a dozen dogs from Badass took part in the two-day shoot in Prospect Park and Dumbo, and O'Donnell said both players and pups had a good time.

"We brought a couple extra treats to keep them on our side," he said. "For me, the best part was seeing dogs who wouldn't go near some of the guys at the start of the shoot, but by the end of it were face-to-face, 6 inches away from the players' noses."

For the second annu-

al calendar for Brooklyn Rugby Club's women's team, Katie Mason took the helm as creative director and envisioned going a "step further creatively" after the first outing focused more on the sport and the women who play it here in New York City.

"From an intellectual standpoint and aesthetic standpoint, all those factors kind of brought us to this cool, biker-babe-with-a-twist concept," Mason said. "We're really trying to demonstrate that women come in many shapes and forms and embrace our differ-

ences and nuances. We embrace our femininity and masculinity in all of these things, and we wanted to take it to the next level."

The Brooklyn Rugby Club will hold a calendar release party Saturday at 9 p.m. at Littlefield (635 Sackett St., Brooklyn). Tickets are \$20-\$30 and include a calendar if bought in advance. A portion of profits from the men's calendar will be donated to Badass Brooklyn Animal Rescue. For more info, visit brooklynrugby.com or littlefieldnyc.com.

And the top dog names in New York City are...

New York City loves its dogs, which is evident by how many you probably see on a daily basis as you make your way around town. Thanks to Rover.com's newly released annual list of popular dog names, we know what some of those puppies are named.

The top male and female names — Max and Bella — matched Rover's top national names, and the rest of the Top Five were fairly on-point with national trends, though there were a few slight variations.



Though Kona, the name of this dog, ranked 49th nationally, it didn't make Rover.com's cut in New York City. **Tom ROARBY**

For female dog names, Lucy came in second, followed by Luna, Lola and Daisy, while Charlie, Oliver, Buddy and Cooper rounded out the Top Five

for male dogs.

Though Carmelo Anthony was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder after seven seasons with the New York Knicks before this season started, city dog owners still love him, as the name Carmelo saw a slam-dunk worthy jump of 172 percent this year.

While many may have scratched their heads over the recent drama surrounding a third "Sex and the City" film, the HBO hit, which went off the air in 2004(!), still sets some trends when

it comes to dog names. The name Carrie jumped 235 percent this year while Samantha saw an 80 percent increase. The names Charlotte and Miranda, however, both saw declines of 24 and 16 percent, respectively.

We don't know if it has to do with how much New Yorkers love a bottomless brunch — or that 4 a.m. last call — but city dogs are 33 percent more likely to have a booze-inspired name, Rover found, with Guinness, Whiskey and Jameson the most popular. **NIKKI M. MASCALI**

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Worst password offenders of 2017 include Trump, Republican Party

Digital-security company Dashlane looked at who had the most significant blunders of the year.



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Cybersecurity can be complicated, but an easy way to prevent being hacked is to make sure you have a strong password.

But even big companies and government departments fail at making secure passwords. And the worst password offender of all, according to a New York City-based digital security company? The commander in chief himself, President Donald Trump.

Dashlane, a digital security company, released on Thursday its "Worst Password Offenders" of



A digital security company released its Worst Password Offenders of 2017 list, a ranking of high-profile people and big companies that committed password-related blunders this year. GETTY IMAGES

2017 list, a ranking of high-profile people and big companies that experienced some of the "most significant password-related blunders" of the year.

"While the violators on this list vary, they all showcase that common password mistakes can cause great embarrassment and economic loss, and that the aftermath of a breach can often be

prevented," the company said.

Trump landed in the No. 1 spot of the ranking "for good reason," Dashlane noted, for how his approach to cybersecurity falls short.

"For starters, a January investigation by U.K. outlet Channel 4 News exposed that many of the top staff members Trump hand-picked, including

WORST OFFENDERS

Here's Dashlane's full ranking of the 10 worst password offenders of 2017:

1. Donald Trump
2. Equifax
3. U.K. government
4. Department of Defense
5. Republican Party
6. Google
7. HBO
8. Imgur
9. Paul Manafort
10. Sean Spicer

multiple cabinet secretaries and senior policy directors — even cybersecurity adviser Rudy Giuliani — were reusing insecure, simple passwords," Dashlane explained. "This revelation is not to be taken lightly, and signals that a president who touts his cybersecurity prowess may have added numerous cyber vulnerabilities to the nation's highest office."

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Trump didn't understand implications of his Jerusalem decision: Advisers

The reversal of decades of U.S./Israel policy was driven by politics, they say, not concern for Middle East peace.



MICHAEL MARTIN
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letters@metro.us

President Trump didn't fully understand the ramifications of declaring Jerusalem to be the

capital of Israel, The Washington Post reported Thursday.

Yesterday, the president made the declaration and said the U.S. would begin the process of moving its embassy

from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The move breaks decades of American diplomatic tradition and threatens any deal for Middle East peace, as Palestinians hoped to name East Jerusalem

their own capital. Protests dubbed "the Day of Rage" erupted in Israel following the announcement, while political observers, some close to the president, expressed disbelief.

"It's insane. We're all resistant," one Trump confidant told the Post. "He doesn't realize what all he could trigger by doing this." Officials in chief regional allies Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt all called it a step backward in the peace process and said they didn't have a sense a larger plan was behind it.

Congress passed a resolution in the mid-'90s declaring intent to move the embassy. Ever since, presidents have signed postponements every six months, holding off on naming the capital city to encourage a lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Trump's decision now threatens to destabilize the region and was vocally opposed by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary James Mattis.

Trump was focused on keeping a campaign

promise, wanting to seem "pro-Israel" and "making a deal," the Post reports. He was encouraged by son-in-law Jared Kushner, Vice President Mike Pence and United Nations Representative Nikki Haley.

Trump continued to solicit feedback on the issue from even "random acquaintances" during the past two months, the Post reported. Several advisers told the paper that he didn't seem to have a full understanding of what was at stake, including its effect on a political shakeup under way in Saudi Arabia. Tillerson, mindful of the attacks on the American Embassy in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012, argued forcefully that the declaration could cause a chain reaction across the region. In a Nov. 27 meeting, Trump said he had to follow his campaign pledge and seemed irritated by advisers' objections about security and precedent.

"The decision wasn't driven by the peace process," one senior official said. "The decision was driven by his campaign promise."



The president declared that the U.S. would begin the process of moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. GETTY IMAGES

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Here's where New Yorkers took Lyft to most this year

Ever wonder where New Yorkers take Lyft? Wonder no more, thanks to the ride-hailing service's 2017 Lyftie Awards.



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These days, cars from ride-hailing services are as common on New York City streets as those ubiquitous yellow taxis, and if you've ever wondered where exactly New Yorkers are taking those cars, we're about to let the cat out of the bag.

Lyft just released its third annual Lyftie Awards, a tally of the company's most-popular drop-off locations across the country, which increased from 24 cities last year to 32 this year and including cities from Honolulu to here.

Vipul Patel, Lyft's New York City general manager, told Metro 2017 has been "tremendous" for Lyft in New York. Though he didn't get into specifics, Patel said the company saw an uptick not only in drivers, passengers and rides, but also products, including Lyft Lux, Lyft Lux SUV and Car Seat Mode. Lyft also saw its service area grow as it expanded onto Long Island and in Westchester and the lower Hudson Valley.

"As we look back on 2017, we're proud to honor the places that New Yorkers rode to most with the Lyftie Awards," he added. "We look forward to continuing our growth in 2018, all thanks to the Lyft drivers that make it all possible."

Without further ado, here's where you took Lyft the most this year, New Yorkers:

Most visited restaurant: Vandal

This two-level Bowery-based hotspot boasts two bars, a restaurant and garden dining area, a purple breakdancing rabbit and

the distinction of being the top restaurant destination for Lyft passengers, especially on Saturday nights, according to the company's data.

Most visited bar: House of Yes

With themed nights to give you major FOMO and attendees decked out in outrageous and intricate costumes, it's no wonder city residents went to this "temple of expression dedicated to connection, creativity and celebrating life" in droves. The most-popular party was the Gala Galactica with Waze+Odyssey on Sept. 23.

Most visited event space: Madison Square Garden

The "World's Most Famous Arena," which hosts numerous concerts and events throughout the year and is home to the Knicks, Rangers and Liberty sports teams, was the event space of the year for Lyft riders, especially for the Nov. 4 UFC fight between Michael Bisping and Georges St-Pierre.

Most visited university: NYU

This Greenwich Village institution was the top college destination for Lyft passengers, with Paladium Hall the school's top drop-off building.

Only in New York: Katz's Delicatessen

For decades, New Yorkers and tourists alike have been having what Katz's has to offer, which usually includes mountainous and delicious sandwiches, and Lyft riders were no different, flocking to this East Houston Street mainstay, especially on Saturday nights.

Trending destination: The William Vale

This boutique hotel in Williamsburg doesn't just cater to out-of-towners; it's been attracting locals thanks in part to its rooftop bar, Westlight,

which offers spectacular views of Manhattan, and Vale Park, its river-facing greenspace.



Thanks to the 2017 Lyftie Awards, we know where New Yorkers took Lyft rides to the most. LYFT



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"I didn't swear, you c#&t." BOTH PHOTOS NEON

The stars of "I, Tonya" dish on breaking kneecaps.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroNewYork
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

One of the year's most anticipated movies, for reasons we're slightly ashamed to admit, is "I, Tonya." Because who doesn't love an early '90s period movie with a Hallmark Channel storyline, an A-list cast and a whole lot of bedazzled spandex?

The tale of Tonya Harding and the tragically flawed takedown of her "friend"/opponent Nancy Kerrigan is told in 260 scenes over 110 pages of script ... and we only wish there was

more.

From an upbringing that would be politely described as "humble" to figure skating elite, only to be banned from the sport (despite her long list of firsts — first woman to execute a triple axle in a short program, first woman to execute two triple axles in a competition, and more) for collusion in a hit job on another competitor, Tonya Harding's story is still compelling. You don't have to follow figure skating to know her name, as well as Nancy Kerrigan's and Kristi Yamaguchi's, and now we get the story delivered with all the hair spray and ciga-

rette smoke it deserves — but with the added benefit of a tenacious Margot Robbie (playing Harding) and the always-perfect Allison Janney

them both about the film.

So, what's it like to play a real-life person who's become a meme?

Allison Janney: I was so thrilled at the possibility to play a character that was so offensive.

Especially because it was like, "Why a bird and a fur coat?"

Where does that come from?" But when I watched the documentary there was LaVona looking exactly like that.

This isn't your typical holiday feel-good movie. So ... what were you thinking?

Margot Robbie: There were scenes where I would be laughing out loud, and then in the same scene suddenly feel

very guilty for laughing. It made me think, "Wow, am I a s—y person for laughing at that?" It was constantly sucking me in and then pushing it in my face. I found that exciting, thrilling and new.

This doesn't look like a typical biopic. It looks more like a movie not at all based on a true story.

Margot Robbie: This was very unconventional. There's the mockumentary-style interviews that kind of anchor the whole story. It's filled with unreliable narrators butting in on each other's stories and contradicting each other, and all of those aspects just make it so exciting and appealing.

Allison Janney: This is not just from one per-

son's point of view. This is from many different players' point of views. Which ends up making it a comedy. None of us believe we're in a comedy. But the juxtaposition of our stories, and my version against hers, that's where the comedy comes.

Isn't this just the backstory of (deep breath) the bad girl of figure skating?

Allison Janney: Most people think Tonya took a baseball bat to Nancy Kerrigan's shins. She was not involved. But to what degree she was involved is up to what you believe."

"I, Tonya" is out in limited release now, with a nationwide rollout in the next few weeks.



(playing her mother).
Metro recently had the chance to chat with

"I, Tonya"

Director: Craig Gillespie

Stars: Margot Robbie, Allison Janney

Rating: R



There isn't a dull moment in "I, Tonya." It starts off at breakneck speed and never looks back, as the film and its characters bulldoze their way through Tonya Harding's ascension to the top of the U.S. figure skating team in short, zippy, funny scenes backed by a catchy soundtrack. Key through all of this is "I, Tonya's" repeated cut-backs to mockumentary interviews, which provide a

backbone to the entire film that catapult it forward. But when the movie arrives at and depicts the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, the incident that hasn't just defined Tonya Harding but turned her into a pop culture punchline, changes pace, and gives you time to absorb the absurdity of what really happened on that fateful night in 1994. All the while, "I, Tonya" is constantly elevated by two of the most impressive performances of the year; as Harding, Robbie unleashes an extra dimension to her acting talents, and Janney, as Tonya's offensive mother, is so rude, in-your-face and immense that she is immediately the front-runner for the Best Supporting

Actress gong. There's a surprising depth to "I, Tonya," too, as the sheer resilience of Harding stirs. Especially since it works on numerous levels, from her fight against the class system to disconnecting from the abuse that followed her, and then trying to overcome her unwanted legacy. Unfortunately, "I, Tonya" moves too quickly and incorporates too many different points of views to ever make these elements really connect, while the skating scenes flounder because of some very ropey special effects. But that's nowhere near enough to derail it from being one of the most watchable films of 2017.

GREGORY WAKEMAN



NEON

Vella Lovell's guide to slaying the confidence gap

The "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" star takes on Meghan Markle, the stigma around mental health and the confidence gap.



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Vella Lovell is very excited about Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's upcoming nuptials. "I am so here for the wedding," she says over the phone. She's in Los Angeles, prepping to fly to London — for the first time ever — and she's hoping she'll get an in. "[Meghan] probably will see right through me trying to make friends with her. It's just like, Princess Meghan!" If there was ever a verbal equivalent of a "squee," Lovell is making it now.

The 32-year-old actress — most famous for her role as the sardonic and slyly hilarious Heather

Vella Lovell plays Heather in "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" — but she's more than just the comic relief. **RYAN WEST**



in "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" — has a rosy, infectious and delightfully upbeat disposition. But she's more than just the comic relief: She appeared on the big screen in this year's hit "The Big Sick" as Khadijah, and fine-tunes her comedy chops with the all-female sketch group Razor Burn from time to time. Not bad for a Julliard alum with no formal comedic training.

Ahead of the "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" mid-season finale — airing tonight on the CW at 8 p.m. — we chatted with the lovely Lovell about the confidence gap, the stigma around mental illness and — oh yeah! — hashtag growth.

I am loving this season and the way mental health is being portrayed. All the characters

have been so supportive. It shows so many different ways that, as a friend, you can help, and different ways of coping. And that none of them are wrong: There really is no roadmap to the perfect way of being there for your friend. It's just like, just be there, just love them and know that it is their own journey. Sometimes it's hard for

people to figure out how to support their close friends with mental illness.

If there's any lesson, it's just that you need to do your best and be there for them. Your friends can help you but they can only go so far.

Just working on the show, we've all learned a lot about mental illness and the stigma around it. People don't like to talk about it, but most people have some experience with it. So it's good that we're shining a light. It's good!

Heather is, in a lot of ways, the comic relief. Were you part of the comedy scene in NYC? I never [was]. There's so many people that [came from] UCB or iO, just a lot of people who have studied comedy and I have not at all. So sometimes I feel like I don't know what I'm doing.

It can be really intimidating!

There's this article that was in The Atlantic called "The Confidence Gap." One of the quotes is like, women will only apply to jobs if they feel like they're 100% qualified, whereas men will apply for jobs if they feel like they're 60% qualified. Women are so overqualified to do most things, we just don't think that we are. So that was a huge thing [for me]. Even if you feel like you don't have anything to say, you do. And men are doing it all the time, so we can do it too.

Barring any major spoilers, where can we see Heather go for the second half of the season? They are throwing some crazy curve balls at her and it's an exciting, very true way of growing. Everyone has those growing pains. Where she ends up at the end of the season — I mean, this is definitely her season of expansion and growth in a really good way.

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This is how Brooklyn does 'The Nutcracker'



The Brooklyn Ballet mixes contemporary performers, including a hip-hopping Herr Drosselmeyer, into its interpretation of The Nutcracker. ALL PHOTOS BY JULIE LEMBERGER

Tchaikovsky's ballet gets a fresh take from the Brooklyn Ballet.

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George Balanchine staged his first iconic performance of "The Nutcracker" in New York City back in 1954. His choreography rightly became the gold standard, but the city has changed since then.

Enter the Brooklyn Ballet, which has reinterpreted the holiday story to reflect its home into "The Brooklyn Nutcracker," mixing the borough's

history as an old Dutch colony with contemporary Flatbush Avenue.

"This production is very much attached to Brooklyn and its ethnic diversity," says Brooklyn Ballet director and choreographer Lynn Parkerson.

"Instead of the traditional Arabian dance or the marzipan dance, I have a belly dancer and Caribbean dancers. Herr Drosselmeyer is played by a hip-hop dancer," she says of one of the Nutcracker's main roles. "It totally works for his character: the magical crazy uncle doing pop and lock moves."

As well as updating

the dance moves, this production adds hi-tech touches.

"The snow scene is normally a very white tutu and classic pas de deux, but we're using costumes with motion sensors," she says. "The LEDs shimmer with the movement, but when it stops they slowly stop, just like snow falling."

In between this two-act ballet, a Native American hoop dancer from a New Mexican Pueblo tribe will perform.

The ballet's fantastical story and the necessary suspension of disbelief makes it open to existential exploration, Parkerson explains.

"The Nutcracker' is this crazy ballet. It's already got all that richness in it. This production is all about melding styles in a classical ballet and finding new ways to bring people in."

That said, it's still "The Nutcracker." "It's still those scenes everyone knows and loves," she adds. "It's still the same score Tchaikovsky wrote, but the hip-hop and Caribbean dancers respond to it in a different way, and you hear the music in a different way."

In her career spanning the Boston and Chicago ballets, Parkerson has performed in many Nutcrackers. "As a

dancer, The Nutcracker is what you do. But I hadn't choreographed it before," she says.

"As a ballet company we wanted to do a Nutcracker, but we had to make it great. It has to be fantastic if you're performing it in New York."

The idea for "The Brooklyn Nutcracker" took root in 2010, when Parkerson choreographed a "Nutcracker" segment to accompany a tree-lighting ceremony. The company's limited staging of the production last year sold out, so additional dates have been added this time around.

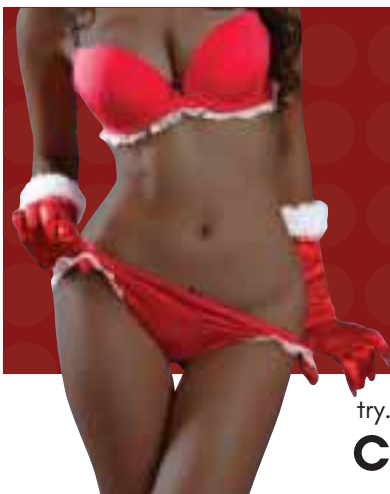
"I saw how people watching were so com-

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pletely engaged in the dancing. It expanded from there with added segments," she says.

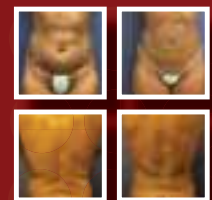
"If you want the traditional Nutcracker, it's out there. But people seem to like the variation and the diversity this production brings. We got standing ovations and it sold out."



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GREGORY WAKEMAN
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Combine a White House darkened by dirty secrets, a press that's vigilant despite a tarnishing, a woman fighting tooth and nail to make it in a male-dominated industry, and a country divided, and you have ... no, not modern politics. Rather, a snapshot of the Nixon years and a sure-fire hit in "The Post."

If that description, along with the bookies' odds in Vegas, haven't convinced you, let the fact that Steven Spielberg is directing and

Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep are playing the leads. Mic drop.

This timely story about the first female newspaper publisher (Streep) working alongside an ambitious editor (Hanks) to publish the Pentagon Papers (an exhaustive breakdown of how presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon lied about the Vietnam War) will override any collusion quandaries you may have and take you back to the days of closed-door policies, misogyny and egregious deceit — oh, wait. And the final product is damn entertaining.

Most of the time, the combination of cinematic heavyweights of this caliber with such weighty themes and content leaves a

film feeling too rich, preachy and indulgent. But Streep's Kay Graham is subtle (yet powerful) and Hanks as Ben Bradlee is the everyman we all wish we could be.

There's also an economy to Spielberg's direction that perfectly complements the workmanlike, enterprising endeavors of the ensemble. He doesn't get bogged down in moments or try to ham them up, as he knows full well that the actors and script can bring the edge and tension required.

"The Post" has all the hallmarks of classic Spielberg, too, as its humor alludes to "Jaws," its tension and build to "Jurassic Park," its detail and precision to "Schindler's List" and



its simplicity to "Raiders of the Lost Ark." While just to underline its nod to the golden generation of '70s cinema, "The Post" strives to be, and could easily be considered, a prequel to "All the President Men."

At its core this is a movie about a woman trying to find her voice,

while being underappreciated, underestimated and dismissed by privileged white men that just want to win at all costs. Sound familiar? What feels most prescient, though, is the fire that the film looks to set underneath all of us — especially journalists — when

it comes to demand freedom of the press in an age of "fake news." The final scene is sure to stir and inspire, and its impact will be undeniable.

Check it out in cinemas soon (limited release on Christmas Day, with subsequent theater openings in early January).

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3 Things to watch for when the Broncos host the Jets



Master McCown

New York Jets quarterback Josh McCown continues to amaze in 2017.

The veteran quarterback, who was expected to lay an egg in New York, has been a supreme game manager and, at times, an offensive threat.

Last week was one of those instances as he put up 331 yards, one passing

touchdown and two rushing scores on his way to AFC Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Over his last two games, he's been even better, combining for 638 yards and six touchdowns.

He's completed nearly 68 percent of his passes this season for 2,880 yards, 18 touchdowns and five rushing touchdowns, which are already career highs.

Tough defense in Denver

McCown and Co. will be facing an extremely stiff test in the Broncos, though.

It'll be far more difficult than they saw with the Chiefs in Week 13.

Despite their subpar record, the Broncos defense is still one of the more

imposing units in the NFL.

They are the league's No. 5 defense, allowing 295.6 yards per game. Their pass defense is even better, ranked fourth despite accruing just seven interceptions.

Regardless, Robby Anderson and Jermaine Kearse are going to have their hands full against a physical Denver secondary.

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Get after it

While Denver's defense will be attempting to unnerve McCown, the Jets will have to do the same exact thing with the Broncos offense.

The hosts have had a bevy of quarterbacking problems all season as they have been unable to get any real production out of Trevor Siemian or Brock Osweiler. Second-year man Paxton Lynch saw a high

ankle sprain in Week 12 derail his chances of grabbing the starting job.

Siemian is expected to go on Sunday as his difficult 2017 season continues.

In nine games, he's put up 2,018 yards, 11 touchdowns and 13 interceptions.

The lack of consistency under center is a big reason why the Broncos' scoring offense is ranked 27th in the NFL. **JOE PANTORNO**

D-lineman Muhammad Wilkerson's days in NY seem to be numbered

Don't get used to saying "New York Jets defensive end" before Muhammad Wilkerson's name.

The oft-troubled veteran pass rusher's time in New York is drawing to a close as he continues to misrepresent a hard-working team that has exceeded expectation for most of 2017.

A source told the New York Daily News' Manish Mehra that Wilkerson is "gone" after this season despite having three years and almost \$50 million left on his five-year, \$86 million deal signed prior to the 2016 season.

To put it plainly, Wilkerson has not lived up to such an exorbitant deal.

Drafted 30th overall

by the Jets in 2011, Wilkerson showed flashes of becoming a dominant rusher off the edge but was unable to consistently produce.

After putting up a combined eight sacks in his first two years in the league, Wilkerson put up 10.5 in 2013 but followed it up with just six the following season.

In 2015, he put together his finest season with 12 sacks and three forced fumbles, prompting the Jets to shell out a sizable deal for Wilkerson.

He's combined for just seven sacks in the 27 games since.

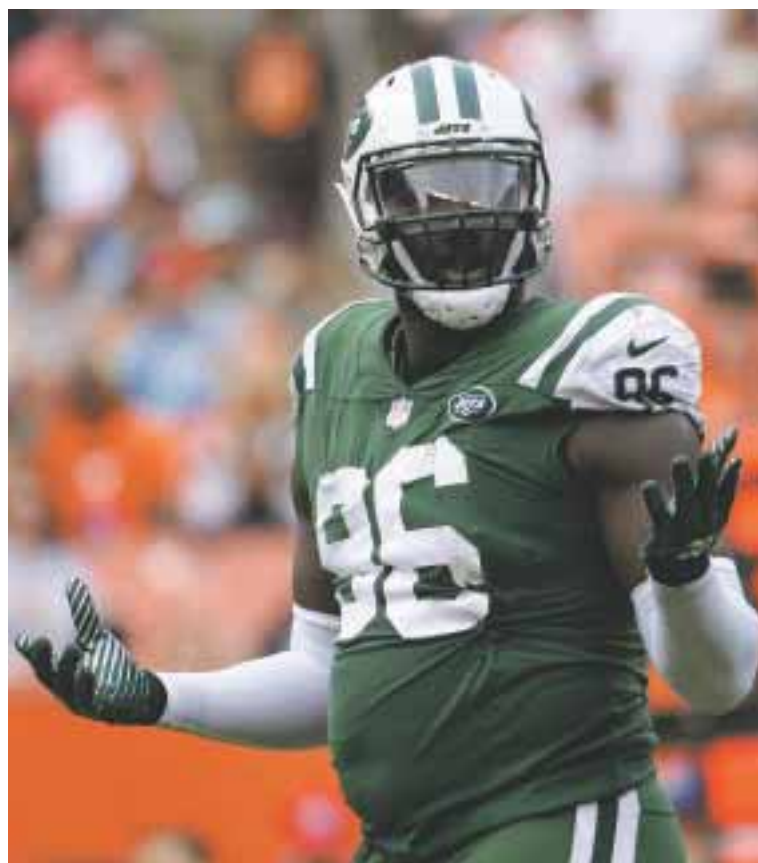
Granted, he was contending with an ankle injury that required surgery prior to the 2016 season. But he didn't necessarily make

any friends while trying to explain that, blaming the Jets training staff for botching his recovery to a point in which the ankle bothered him for most of the year.

You just don't do that.

The 28-year-old has also been benched three times in the past three years for not being on time and has remained defiant with fans and the New York media. This all obviously doesn't correspond with his comments over the summer saying that he was one of the leaders of this team.

The Jets have a chance to cut Wilkerson before March, preventing the \$16.75 million he's owed in 2018 to become guaranteed. **JOE PANTORNO**



The New York Jets could cut defensive end Muhammad Wilkerson after the 2017 season. **GETTY IMAGES**

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3 Things to watch for when the Cowboys visit the Giants

Welcome back

All seems right in the world now that Eli Manning was re-named the New York Giants' starting quarterback this Sunday.

The Big Blue faithful were resigned to watching backup Geno Smith attempt to navigate the team through a winnable game against the Raiders in Oakland, though two key turnovers relegated

New York to a 10th loss this season.

After the firing of Ben McAdoo and Jerry Reese, the men responsible for the benching, Manning will be back under center against the Cowboys to begin a new streak of consecutive games started.

Look for the 36-year-old to prove he can still sling it with the best of them.

Spags' shot

Former defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo is now controlling the Giants' sideline as interim head coach.

With the man who was believed to be responsible for this horrific season

now out of the picture, Spagnuolo has an opportunity to show the rest of the NFL that he is capable of coaching as he attempts to wipe the slate clean after a disastrous stint with the St. Louis Rams earlier in the decade.



WEEK 14

Sunday at 1 p.m. on FOX



Slumping 'boys

So much for a repeat.

The Cowboys have been nothing short of pedestrian this season as quarterback Dak Prescott is officially in the midst of a sophomore slump.

The reigning Rookie of the Year has looked lost without running back Ezekiel Elliott, who is serving a six-game suspension.

He's thrown for fewer

than 200 yards in five of his last six games and has thrown five interceptions over his last three.

He threw just four interceptions all of last year.

Prescott has been unable to lean on a run game that now features Alfred Morris and Rod Smith.

They'll try and feed off last Thursday's decisive win over Washington. **JOE PANTORNO**

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COUNTY OF QUEENS
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff AGAINST
DAWNYELL GAINES, et al.,
Defendant(s) Pursuant to a
Judgment of Foreclosure and
Sale duly dated June 09, 2015 I,
the undersigned Referee will sell
at public auction at the Queens
County Courthouse in Courtroom
25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard,
Jamaica, New York, on December
15, 2017 at 10:00AM, premises
known as 110-48 197TH STREET,
SAINT ALBANS, NY 11412. All
that certain plot piece or parcel
of land, with the buildings and
improvements erected, situate,
lying and being in the Borough
of Queens, City and State of New
York, BLOCK 10936, LOT 247.
Approximate amount of judgment
\$400,994.12 plus interest and
costs. Premises will be sold
subject to provisions of filed
Judgment for Index #8154/13.
Joseph N. Misk, Esq., Referee
Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for
Plaintiff
1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100
Williamsville, NY 14221

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
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Rd., Forest Hills, NY 11375.
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consumption. MCRB Corp.

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for on premises consumption.
Minas Grill Corporation.

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COUNTY OF QUEENS
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CitiGroup Mortgage Loan Trust Inc.,
Asset-Backed Pass Through
Certificates Series 2007-AMC1,
Plaintiff AGAINST Petula Graham;
et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of
Foreclosure and Sale duly dated
November 14, 2016 I, the
undersigned Referee will sell at
public auction at the Queens County
Courthouse, Courtroom #25,
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December 15, 2017 at 10:00AM,
premises known as 640 Beach
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and being in the Borough and County
of Queens, City and State of NY,
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costs. Premises will be sold subject
to provisions of filed Judgment
Index# 701757/2014.
Cristina Prieto, Esq, Referee
Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
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premises consumption. Dirty Pierre's
Chris Dream Continues LLC.

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN
that a license, Number Pending,
for Beer & Wine has been applied
for by the undersigned to sell Beer
& Wine at retail in a Café under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at 97-14 Metropolitan Ave., Forest
Hills, NY 11375. Queens County, for on
premises consumption. Inspire Paintbar
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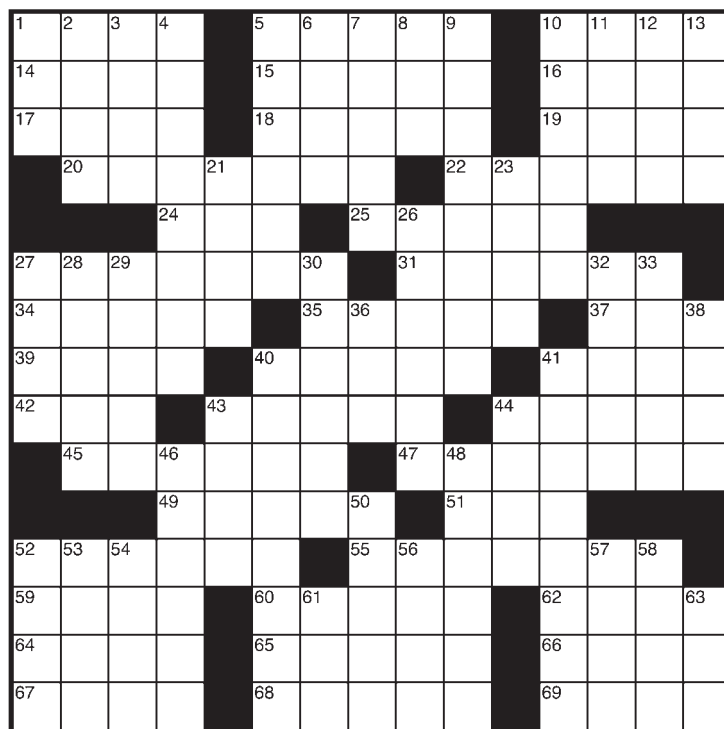
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10 Beyond (pref.)
14 Potter's need
15 Wall climbers
16 Whitish gem
17 Victorian exclamation
18 Donates
19 Wealthy, in Madrid
20 Rum-based drink
22 Cochineal or Geronimo
24 Estuary
25 Carpenter's supply
27 Fits in
31 Store sign
34 Firing, slangily
35 Oohed and --
37 Retiree's kitty
39 Essences
40 Bitterly pungent
41 Acct. insurer
42 Menacing sound
43 Come to terms
44 Writer -- Binky
45 Gurgle, as a brook
47 Ended a layoff
49 Etching fluids
51 "... Giovanni"
52 Be emphatic
55 Prickly weed
59 Water-filled trench
60 Seer's deck

- 62 Gutter locale
64 Jab playfully
65 Griffith or Zola
66 Pipe handle
67 Lose traction
68 Lassoed
69 Big Top

Down

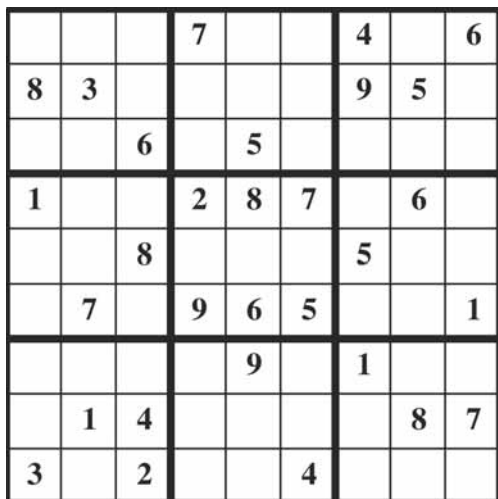
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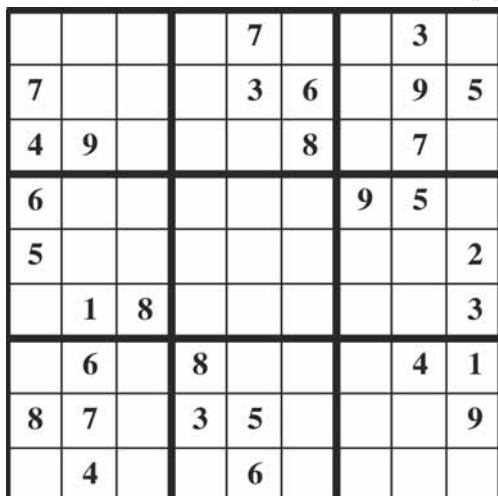


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easy



hard



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Aries Business trips, meetings and conversations that offer inside information will help you move forward with your plans. Advancement is within reach.



Taurus Offering incentives will help keep you out of trouble. A shopping spree will result in a purchase made to appease someone you disappointed.



Gemini Your insight, intelligence and ability to convince others to see things your way will encourage a change in your life. Romance is highlighted.



Cancer Discuss your plans openly and listen to the advice offered you. You may not agree with it, but taking a cautious approach is in your best interest.



Leo You'll hit an emotional brick wall if you get into a personal discussion with someone you know through work. Keep your private matters a secret.



Virgo Emotions will be difficult to control. A personal relationship will need nurturing if you want to avoid complaints. Be a good listener and offer honesty as well as empathy.



Libra Sign up to help those less fortunate or people who are struggling. Volunteer to raise funds to support children, animals or any other project that touches your heart.



Scorpio Focus on what you must accomplish. Put work first and take care of responsibilities that could help you get a promotion. Strive to be a leader and celebrate with a loved one.



Sagittarius A move, renovation or decor change will boost your spirits and get you in the mood for upcoming festivities. Make plans and share them with someone you love.



Capricorn Take money matters, medical issues and contractual concerns into your own hands to catch a last-minute change that isn't in your best interest. Avoid hasty decisions.



Aquarius Discuss your plans with a personal or professional partner and find a way to incorporate ideas and solutions that will appease everyone involved.



Pisces A change that initially appears to be a step back will turn out to be beneficial. Don't fight the inevitable. Be willing to adapt to whatever comes your way. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

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OUI	OILER	CLIME
ORD	STEEP	ALCOA
SOIREE	HOLIST	
ERNES	SHAKEN	
SAGS	MOONS	CPAS
PROBES	FLUTE	
GREENS	YOUTET	
NARCS	COPIES	
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